

Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act Bulletin 031

Update: Reporting fugitive methane emissions from open pit coal mining within Northeast B.C. Gething Formation

Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation (GGERR)

Overview

This bulletin provides information for industrial operators that have an obligation under the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation ('the Regulation' or 'GGERR') to report fugitive coalbed methane emissions for coal extracted from the Northeast British Columbia (B.C.) Gething formation.

The bulletin specifies a 0.47 kg CH₄/tonne emission factor for coal extracted from the Northeast B.C. Gething formation for the 2023 reporting period onwards

Operators that extract coal from the Northeast B.C. Gething formation and report fugitive coalbed methane should ensure they understand the updated requirements and provide notice of concerns or issues to the attention of the Compliance Unit for Industrial Reporting and Control at GHGRegulator@gov.bc.ca.

Reporting Methodology

Under Section 2 of Schedule A of the Regulation, emissions in relation to open pit coal mining specifies that fugitive coalbed methane must be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Emissions} = \Sigma(\text{EF} \times \text{Coal})$$

where

EF = the emission factor for the type of coal specified by the director for the reporting period, or if no emission factor is specified, the emission factor for the type of coal in the table titled "Fugitive Emission Factors for Coal Mining" for surface mines in British Columbia in the National Inventory Report by Canada to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that is published

- (a) in the most recent National Inventory Report, and
- (b) before the end of the applicable reporting period;

Coal = the amount of the type of coal extracted

The director has specified the Northeast B.C. Gething formation EF (0.47 kg CH₄/tonne) as the emission factor for coal extracted from the Northeast BC Gething formation for the 2023 reporting period onward. Research reviewed by Ministry staff has led to the update of the formation's emissions factor.

Applicability

The specified emission factor will apply for the 2023 reporting period. Emissions reports for the 2022 reporting period or earlier that used emission factors from the National Inventory Report (or other industry best practices for the 2020 reporting period or earlier) are not subject to the Northeast B.C. Gething formation EF, and those emission reports will not be affected by this change.

For certainty, this change is only applicable to coal extracted from the Gething formation. Extracted coal from other formations will continue to use the appropriate emission factor from the National Inventory Report, as set out in [GGIRCA Bulletin 016](#).

Regulation is Determinative

The above is not legal advice. Operators are responsible for reviewing the Regulation to ensure compliance with it.